

Collected 26th January, 1899, by Geo. K. and Stella M. Cherrie. Five specimens examined.

I should have considered this fine animal as a distinct species from that of the Upper Madura were it not that Natterer's second specimen, from the Rio Negro, is, as I am kindly informed by Dr. Lorenz, more or less intermediate in character, as in locality, between the two.

#### XLIV.—*Note on the Beech-Marten and Badger of Crete.*

By G. E. H. BARRETT-HAMILTON.

DURING the recent troubles at Crete H.M.S. 'Fearless' has been frequently stationed at the island, and I am indebted to her paymaster, Mr. H. O. Jones, R.N., for the opportunity of examining several skins of mammals obtained there. Among these two beech-martens and a badger are of special interest.

The two skins of the beech-martens sent by Mr. Jones do not belong to the typical *Mustela foina*, Erxleb., of Europe, but are indistinguishable from *Mustela foina leucolachnæa*, Blanford, of which the British Museum possesses specimens from Hazara in Afghanistan and Vernoë in Turkestan. The present locality therefore is a rather unexpected extension of the range of this subspecies.

The badger is very perceptibly lighter in coloration than those of Britain, but not so light as *Meles canescens*, Blanford, especially in the markings of the head. In this respect it agrees with two specimens from Seville, Spain, for which the British Museum is indebted to the late Lord Lilford, so that these Mediterranean badgers are interestingly intermediate between those of Persia and of Europe generally. I propose to regard this moderately light Mediterranean form as a subspecies under the name of *mediterraneus*, and to reduce Blanford's *Meles canescens* to subspecific rank. Of these two subspecies the following specimens are included in the British Museum collection:—

*Meles meles canescens*, Blanford\*, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1875, xvi. p. 310, No. 74. 11. 21. 1, Abadah, Persia, 1870; No. 97. 10. 3. 53, ♀ juv., W. T. Blanford, Tarte Koule, Ferghana, Persia, altitude 13,300 feet.

\* "*M. affinis M. taxo*, sed minor, canescenti-griseo, haud fusco, dentibus posticis angustioribus. *Hab.* in Persia circum Isfahan &c."

*Meles meles mediterraneus*, subsp. n.—No. 95. 3. 3. 7, ♂, Seville, Spain, 15th Oct., 1894, and No. 95. 3. 3. 8, ♀, Seville, Spain, 16th Oct., 1894, the late Lord Lilford; No. 99. 6. 13. 1, ♀, Crete, 1899, H. O. Jones, R.N.—The type is No. 95. 3. 3. 7.

To the latter form probably belong the badgers of Asia Minor, since a specimen obtained at Zebil, in the Taurus, was stated by Messrs. Danford and Alston\* to be nearly as pale-coloured as *M. canescens*, although in some other respects it resembled European examples. I have no skulls available for purposes of comparison, but the colour-differences are probably at least as reliable as those of the crania relied on by Mr. Blanford as characteristic of *M. canescens*.

There is another subspecies, *M. meles arenarius*, which I have not seen, described by K. Satunin from the Caucasus†, and of which the original description runs as follows:—“*Meles affinis M. taxo*, sed minor, statura graciliore, capite albescente, utrimque vitta longitudinali per oculos (nec per aures) supra auresque ducta, ad nucham non latiore, cauda longiore, dente molare superiore angustiore.” It must be very nearly allied to *M. m. canescens* and *M. m. mediterraneus*.

In conclusion, it may be interesting to give a few dimensions (in millimetres) of some of the skulls of badgers in the British Museum collection. The skulls of males are usually larger and more massive, and have the sagittal crest much more strongly developed, than those of females.

*M. m. mediterraneus.*

	Total length (basion to gnathion).	Greatest breadth at zygoma.
♂, No. 95. 3. 3. 7. Seville, Spain ( <i>the late Lord Lilford</i> ) . . . . .	122	81
♀, No. 95. 3. 3. 8 ( <i>ditto</i> ) . . . . .	112	73

*M. m. typicus.*

♂ (no locality) . . . . .	130	85
♂, England . . . . .	118	84
♂, Co. Galway, Ireland ( <i>R. F. Hibbert</i> ). No. 95. 6. 2. 1 . . . . .	117	83
♀, Co. Galway, Ireland ( <i>R. F. Hibbert</i> ). No. 95. 12. 3. 1 . . . . .	117	83
♀, Sweden. No. 64. 3. 8. 1 . . . . .	117	71
♀, England . . . . .	113	78
♀, England . . . . .	112	76

\* P. Z. S. 1877, p. 274.

† Archiv für Naturgeschichte, May 1895, p. 111.